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thoroughly accurate, is noteworthy for its simplicity and straightforwardness, and Professor Gage has shown himself a master in this form of composition. Not a little of the success of the pamphlet is due to the illustrations, which show a happy blending of informational and decorative purposes. In one respect only does the text seem open to some criticism; the occasional endowment of the toad with semi-human faculties, while adding to the interest of the composition, is perhaps not wholly consistent with nature. The account is full of suggestions for outdoor studies, and concludes with some appropriate book references for the teacher.

G. H. P.

**Eyes of Annelids.** — The histological structure of the eyes of the free-living marine annelids has been investigated by K. E. Schreiner.<sup>1</sup> In *Nereis* the retina consisted of pigmented retinal cells and non-nervous supporting cells. In all other annelids examined, *Eunice*, *Hesione*, *Lepidonotus*, *Phyllodoce*, *Asterope*, and *Alciope*, only pigmented retinal cells were observed. This difference the author believes to be of fundamental importance, and he therefore separates *Nereis*, so far as its eyes are concerned, from the other annelids. The remaining forms then make a natural series, from those with open cup-like eyes, such as are found in *Eunice*, to the closed vesicular eyes of *Alciope*.

G. H. P.

**Mesoplodon on the Norway Coast.** — J. A. Grieg records the capture in August, 1895, on the Norway coast, of two specimens of the whale, *Mesoplodon bidens* Sow.<sup>2</sup> Previously this species had been noted in Scandinavian waters only five times. Of one specimen, presumably a female, only the skeleton was obtained; the other, a male, received with the flesh on it, was photographed, and a cast made of it. Both specimens were mounted as skeletons for the Bergen Museum, and Grieg's paper is occupied largely with an account of their osteology. It is reported that when the first one, which was found stranded alive, was shot, it made a noise like a calf being butchered.

G. H. P.

**Variation in Actinians.** — J. A. Clubb has undertaken to examine large numbers of the common species of actinians found in the neighborhood of Liverpool, England, with the intention of ascertain-

<sup>1</sup> Schreiner, K. E. Histologische Studien über die Augen der freilebenden marinen Borstenwürmer, *Bergens Museums Aarbog*, 1897, No. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Grieg, J. A. *Mesoplodon bidens* Sow, *Bergens Museums Aarbog*, 1897, No. 5.